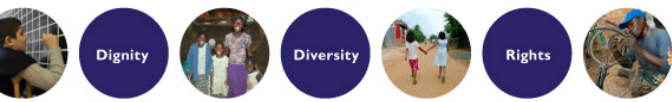


Disability Mainstreaming



Quick Guide Disability Inclusion

Why is disability inclusion important to World Vision?

Disability inclusion is important to World Vision because we are called to serve those who are living in poverty, are oppressed and made especially vulnerable, such as people with disabilities. We have said in our ministry goal that we seek the sustained well-being of children within their families and communities, *especially the most vulnerable*. Some children with disabilities are amongst the most vulnerable people in the communities that World Vision works in. They may become vulnerable because of poverty, lack of opportunities, deprivation of rights, serious stigma and discrimination, inaccessibility to facilities and services, lack of self-confidence and more.



Disability inclusion addresses issues of dignity, human rights, poverty and vulnerability. People with disabilities have the right to fully, equally and meaningfully participate in and benefit from humanitarian assistance and development processes in their communities.

The rights of persons with disabilities may be violated by attitudinal, institutional or environmental barriers that exist in any given society. Every community or society has barriers that prevent some of its members (especially those with physical, sensory or intellectual impairments) from participating in activities that other members of society enjoy. These groups of people may not be easily visible, especially if they are hiding or are hidden from the public.

How does disability inclusion contribute to the Child Well-being Aspirations?

Disability inclusion contributes to the Child Well-being Aspirations in numerous ways, such as:

- Assuring equitable access to and benefit from health, education and local government services.
- Enabling the inclusion and participation of all children in decision-making and activities in their communities that affect their lives.
- Raising awareness of the rights of children with disabilities so they can better protect themselves.
- Promoting positive attitudes of parents and communities towards children with disabilities, thereby improving relationships and spiritually nurturing children.

What is World Vision's vision and goal for disability inclusion?

World Vision's vision for disability inclusion is for every child, including a child with disability, to experience life in all its fullness and for every heart, including the heart of a child with disabilities, to have the will to make it so.

World Vision's goal for disability inclusion is to improve its programming practices, as well as focus in all strategies and initiatives, to intentionally include and achieve full, equal and meaningful participation of children and adults with disabilities in our work. Disability is not a separate agenda for World Vision's work, but rather a commitment to achieving inclusion of those who are excluded or marginalised in the communities World Vision works in.

Disability Mainstreaming



What is World Vision's approach to disability inclusion?

World Vision's approach to disability inclusion focuses on social, programming and rights issues, rather than medical and individual issues. We emphasise the God-given abilities of people with disabilities, as opposed to their impairments or functional limitations. Because many people with disabilities are made further vulnerable and impoverished due to social stigma and discrimination, World Vision works to minimise these effects. Rather than directly aiming for disability inclusion in communities, World Vision works to ensure disability inclusion in all of its development and relief activities and ways to uphold the dignity of persons with disabilities.

Ensuring disability inclusion requires addressing societal barriers that exclude people with disabilities so that their concerns, contributions and experiences are equally valued as an integral part of policy and programming. We collaborate with and empower community-based organisations of people with disabilities to analyse barriers and find community-based and community-led solutions, such as ensuring people with disabilities have equitable access to government services. We listen to challenges faced by people with disabilities, such as discrimination against children, and then work with them to advocate for changes to policies where necessary. Working with local or community-based organisations of people with disabilities also enables us to understand what our programming barriers are and how best to overcome them. We also partner with specialised organisations, such as Operation Smile, to identify and enable children with disabilities to receive additional support that we do not provide (e.g. surgery, rehabilitation).

What progress has World Vision made in disability inclusion?

World Vision's approach to disability inclusion has shifted from medication intervention, provision of charity items and assistance to institutions to advocating for rights-based approaches to disability inclusion (such as providing disability awareness raising trainings to staff and community stakeholders). Some World Vision offices have begun empowering community-based organisations of people with disabilities with training opportunities so that World Vision can effectively work with them to ensure inclusive and accessible programming. Furthermore, World Vision staff have developed a more unified understanding to our approach to working with people with disabilities and begun sharing best practices, resources and lessons learned with each other.

Resources

- [WVI Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Guidance on Disability Inclusion in LEAP3](#)
- [DADD \(Do/Assure/Don't Do\) for Disability Inclusion](#)
- [WVI Guidelines Addressing Disabilities](#)
- [Four Key Disability Questions for WV Programmes](#)
- [Disability Fact Sheet](#)
- [Travelling together: How to include disabled children on the main road of development](#)

Contacts

Contact Hitomi Honda, Disability Advisor, or visit the [Disability Mainstreaming Community of Practice](#) on wvcentral for more information.